

**Safety Review Committee**  
**May 21, 2004**  
**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Minutes**

**Members Present**

Joel Ager (by Marra Doeff), Michael Banda, Dennis Collins, Ben Feinberg (Chair), Richard Kadel, Mack Kennedy, Ed Lampo (Secretary), Peter Lichty, Don Lucas, Linfeng Rao, Weyland Wong, Linda Wuy, Hisao Yokota

**Members Absent**

Sharon Doyle, Ken Fletcher, Steve Lundgren, Augusto Macchiavelli, Othon Monteiro, Linda Smith, Scott Taylor

**Others Present**

Paul Blodgett, John Chernowski, John Seabury, Pat Thomas, Robin Wendt

**Minutes of April Meeting**

It was moved, seconded, and carried to accept the April minutes as submitted.

**Comments from the Chair**

**New SRC Members:** AFRD will be represented by Peter Seidl and the Mechanical Safety Subcommittee will be chaired by John Berkovitz. Mike Kritscher is also being appointed as a new member of the Mechanical Safety Subcommittee. Appointment letters are in the process.

**MESH Status**

Earth Science: review completed, draft completed, ready to go to the division.

Facilities: review completed, draft is in process.

Engineering: meeting with division June 1

Nuclear Science: meeting with the division June 22.

AFRD: meeting with the division May 25.

**ISM Board Status (for MESHs done in 2003)**

Robin reported that Physics is to be scheduled and ALS's review is already scheduled – EETD, Physical Biosciences, and Directorate/ASD have completed their reviews by the ISM Board.

**Ergonomics Programs (Peter Lichty)**

At a recent UCOP ES&H Panel, mention was made of the ergo program that is in place at UC's Richmond Field Station. Peter is checking with Bob Goldberg (of the Field Station) as to specifics and will report his findings. He noted that ergonomics really is not a science; there are no guaranteed formulas for success. Ergo guidance is far from stable; programs, remediation methods, and guidance change often and dramatically. There are some common program components, which have remained constant; e.g., posture, frequent breaks, limiting repetition. How these are accomplished is the rub.

An innovation is being developed by LLNL. It is an "Early Intervention Program". An ergonomic evaluation is performed before problems are encountered. These evaluations are not in response to ergo problems, but attempts to prevent ergonomic injury occurrences.

General findings/observations:

- Early reporting has best success
- Employee can initiate action before consulting management/supervisor
- There is a correlation between keyboard use and injury
- “Standardized” office design can be helpful
- Improved availability of “ergo aware” furniture is also helpful
- Repetitive keystroke problem

Mike Banda noted that there is a missing piece; laptops. Laptops are being used more and more. Whereas desktop workstation evaluation is useful, there is no “workstation” design or standard for laptop computers. By their nature they are portable and hence used in a variety of settings. LBNL needs to develop “good practice” standards for laptops.

Weyland Wong commented that “over use” (being at the keyboard too long) is a major contributor to ergo injuries. He also mentioned that we need to improve follow-up of evaluations. Now, if a manager does not follow-up, there is no other check of the situation.

**OSHA Progress Report (Paul Blodgett)**

There were 2,358 OSHA findings, of which 55 were recommendations. Facilities prepared an estimate for 1,653 of these findings. It was a class 5 estimate; tolerance of -32%, +50% and included a 25% contingency. The estimate of \$3.9M was submitted to DOE. The findings have been assigned to divisions along with instructions for managing them. Currently EH&S is managing \$830K with Facilities to fix electrical, eyewash shower, and ventilation deficiencies. Estimate ~75% of electrical findings may be abated. The 1,653 findings that require funding were scored using DOE’s Risk Prioritization Management system. Findings above a 172 score were submitted for additional funding (40 to 50 items). We will receive an additional \$100K for these fixes (crane, walk way, confined space) in June. LBNL is committed to mitigating OSHA findings. In a recent issue of “View”, Sally Benson pledged to honor OSHA findings.

**PUB 3000, Chapter 6: Safe Work Authorizations (John Seabury)**

Since January 2001, authorization has been available via on-line access. The signatures required for authorization are being looked at. It is questioned as to whether the division director needs to sign all authorizations. In many cases the P.I. might be adequate, and possibly even more appropriate than the division director. Rich Kadel voiced concern that the Safety Committee Coordinator should be a signer, or at least be advised of the authorization. John Seabury expressed desire to exclude EH&S as universally required authorizing signature. Many SRC members strongly argued against the removal of EH&S and insisted that EH&S remain as a formal part of authorization. Similarly, SRC unanimously recommended that the EH&S Division be the repository of all authorization forms.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Lampo  
SRC Secretary